REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 6-19, of which Claims 6, 10, and 14 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled. No claims have been amended.

Each of independent Claims 6, 10, and 14 is directed to an image forming apparatus with a sheet mounting unit for mounting sheets and with image forming means for forming an image on a sheet supplied from the sheet mounting unit, the image forming means being adjustable in a direction transverse to a direction of conveying of the sheet. Claim 6 includes sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet while temporarily stopped by a stop means in a direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet. Claims 10 and 14 recite sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet in a direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet while temporarily stopped.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims clearly recites that the sheet position is detected while the sheet is temporarily stopped.

Each of Claims 6-19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Löffler, Carolan, Takami, et al. and Ito, et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of the cited references with the exception of Carolan has been discussed in detail in the prior Amendment and such discussion is incorporated herein by reference. For the sake of brevity, Applicant presents herein only the key distinctions being relied on to distinguish each of the independent claims over the above art.

Watanabe has been again reviewed and Applicant respectfully submits that in this reference the detection of the lateral position of the sheet does not occur at the same time as when the sheet is temporarily stopped. Accordingly, there is no sheet-position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet while temporarily stopped, as recited in Claim 6 or sheet-position detection means for detecting a position of the temporarily stopped sheet while the sheet is temporarily stopped, as recited in Claim 10, or sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet while the sheet is temporarily stopped, as recited in Claim 14.

The Examiner refers to both Löffler and Carolan as disclosing the stoppage of the sheet as called for in the claims of the above application. However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references meet the shortcomings of Watanabe.

The Examiner cites column 3, lines 60-65 of Löffler. However, this portion of Löffler refers to the transport of a printed sheet by "conventional sheet transport means" where it is positioned at an intermediate sheet position by a front stop and a side stop in a "conventional manner", with each stop being adjustable by means of respective servo-motors connected to a motor control. Löffler is understood merely to align the sheets by a conventional registration device. While the sheet does appear to come to a stop, there is no position detecting means for detecting a position of the sheet while that sheet is stopped, and certainly no image formation control means which would control a position of the formation of an image in accordance with the sheet position information from a sheet-position detection means.

Carolan was also cited as meeting the shortcomings of Watanabe, and specifically Claim 1 of Carolan was cited for this purpose. Carolan does refer generally to stopping of a document and detecting a variance of the actual position of the stopped document

from a predetermined document registration position. However, this determination is used merely to adjust the speed of a transport drive. There is no suggestion of Applicant's combination of a sheet-position detection means which detects a position of the sheet while temporarily stopped in the direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet and then controls a position of the formation of an image in accordance with that detection.

Neither of the remaining references, namely Takami, et al. and Ito, et al., teach or suggest detection of the lateral position of the sheet when the sheet is temporarily stopped.

For the foregoing reasons, even if all five cited references are taken in combination, there is no teaching or suggestion of sheet-position detection means for detection of a position of the sheet while temporarily stopped as recited in each of the independent claims of the above application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent Claims 6, 10, and 14 is patentable over the applied art.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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